

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6013
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 RIO DE JANEIRO 1365

FOR ARA/MGT

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL - VISIT BY BROOKS SUBCOMMITTEE

REF: STATE 069645

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S STATEMENT
REQUESTED IN REFTEL CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITIES AND
ORGANIZATION OF CONSULATE GENERAL RIO DE JANEIRO.

2. THIS CONSULATE GENERAL SERVES A CONSULAR DISTRICT
THAT INCLUDES THE STATES OF RIO DE JANEIRO, MINAS
GERAIS AND ESPIRITO SANTO, THE FIRST TWO OF WHICH
ARE THE SECOND AND THIRD MOST POPULOUS STATES IN
THE COUNTRY AND ALL THREE OF WHICH OCCUPY TOGETHER
AN AREA APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO THAT OF TEXAS. THE
BULK OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S WORK ORIGINATES IN
THE CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL'S SECOND LARGEST
METROPOLIS AND A MAJOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL,
CULTURAL, TOURISM AND POLITICAL CENTER. PRINCIPAL
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POST ARE IN THE ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, REPRESENTATIONAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS. IN ADDITION, WORKING CLOSELY
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WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL PROPER AND HEADQUARTERED
IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE BUILDING ARE OTHER
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR
INFORMATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS, SPECIALIZED TRANS-
PORTATION MATTER, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROGRAMS, AND CERTAIN
ASPECTS OF UNITED STATES MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL.
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE POST'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND

ORGANIZATION IN THESE AREAS FOLLOWS:

(1) CONSULAR: THE RIO CONSULAR DISTRICT CONTAINS AN ESTIMATED 12,000 AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENTS, APPROXIMATELY 10,000 OF WHOM RESIDE IN OR AROUND RIO DE JANEIRO. IN ADDITION, RIO BEING AN ACTIVE TOURIST, BUSINESS AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION CENTER, IT ATTRACTS A LARGE VOLUME OF AMERICAN TOURISTS, BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER VISITORS. THIS CREATES A CONSIDERABLE WORK LOAD FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION IN PROVISION OF CITIZENSHIP AND PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. IN FISCAL 1977, 941 FEE PASSPORTS WERE ISSUED AND 1,080 NEW AMERICANS REGISTERED WITH CONSULATE. THE CONSULAR SECTION IN THE SAME YEAR PERFORMED 3,488 NOTARIALS, 3,600 WELFARE AND WHEREABOUT CASES AND 110 SHIPPING AND SEAMEN CASES, AND 87 REPORTS OF U.S. CITIZEN BIRTHS. IN ADDITION, RIO IS SECOND ONLY TO SAO PAULO AS THE POINT OF ORIGIN OR DEPARTURE FOR BRAZILIANS AND OTHER NON-AMERICANS TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED STATES. IN THIS CONNECTION, IN FISCAL 1977 THE POST ISSUED 16204 NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS AND 661 IMMIGRANT VISAS AS COMPARED TO 27,647 AND 841 RESPECTIVELY FOR SAO PAULO.

TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS AND FOREIGN VISA APPLICANTS, THE CONSULAR SECTION IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAFFED BY THREE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AND SEVEN LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

(2) ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL: AS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL, TRANSPORTATION, SHIPPING, AND INDUSTRIAL CENTER, AS THE SITE OF MANY BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL ECONOMIC AGENCIES AND AS THE PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT CENTER FOR THE NATIONAL MINERALS AND MINING SECTOR, RIO DE JANEIRO HAS CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES. OUR MOST IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THIS AREA ARE. THUS, OF A NATIONAL CHARACTER, COVERING ALL OF BRAZIL AND NOT MERELY ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT. FOR THIS REASON THE POST HAS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REPORTING AND NEGOTIATING ON A WIDE RANGE OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

TO MEET REQUIREMENTS IN THIS AREA, THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS AN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION CONSISTING OF FIVE AMERICAN OFFICERS, ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY AND NINE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, ONE OF WHOM IS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WORKS FOR THE

AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN BRASILIA. OF THE FOREIGN
SERVICE OFFICERS, ONE IS DESIGNATED "RESOURCES OFFICER"
AND, WITH HIS BRAZILIAN SECRETARY,
WORKS FULL TIME ON MINING, MINERALS AND PETROLEUM
AFFAIRS FOR BRAZIL AS A WHOLE.
BECAUSE OF THE NATIONAL SCOPE OF MUCH OF THE
WORK PERFORMED BY THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION,
THE PREVIOUS AMBASSADOR DECIDED IN 1975 TO PLACE
THAT SECTION UNDER THE IMMEDIATE SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY
OF THE EMBASSY, REMOVING IT FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL'S
PRIMARY SUPERVISION EXCEPT IN REGARD TO PURELY LOCAL
MATTERS. THAT ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT CONTINUES.
MENTION WAS MADE ABOVE OF CERTAIN SPECIALIZED
TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS. IT IS APPROPRIATE TO NOTE HERE
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THE PRESENCE IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE
FEDERAL MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, EACH CONSISTING OF
ONE OFFICER AND ONE LOCAL SECRETARY. THESE OFFICERS
UNDERTAKE SPECIALIZED FUNCTIONS FOR THEIR AGENCIES
AND COME UNDER THE AMBASSADOR'S OVERALL SUPERVISORY
AUTHORITY, ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE
CONSULATE GENERAL'S ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION.

(3) POLITICAL: AS A LARGE METROPOLITAN CENTER AND
AS THE FORMER NATIONAL CAPITAL, RIO IS AN IMPORTANT
LOCUS OF NATIONAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND DIALOGUE.
LIKE SAO PAULO, IT IS A VALUABLE POLITICAL LISTENING
POST BECAUSE OF THE DIVERSE CURRENTS OF OPINION
REPRESENTED HERE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TAPPING
SIGNIFICANT NON-GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION AND OPINION
TO SUPPLEMENT GOVERNMENTAL AND BUREAUCRATIC SOURCES

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6014
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RIO DE JANEIRO 1365

IN THE CAPITAL CITY. THE POLITICAL SECTION IN RIO
MAKES SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO EMBASSY REPORTING
ON NATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS REPORTING ON
LOCAL MATTERS. MOST OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S
REPORTING IS DIRECTED TO THE EMBASSY.

(4) REPRESENTATIONAL: THE FACTORS MENTIONED ABOVE
IN RELATION TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
AFFAIRS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH RIO'S POSITION AS A
TRANSIT, HOLIDAY OR WORKING STOP FOR A
CONTINUOUS STREAM OF HIGH-RANKING U.S. EXECUTIVE
BRANCH AND CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS, MAKES REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE
CONSULATE GENERAL'S WORK AND A PARTICULARLY HEAVY
BURDEN ON THE CONSUL GENERAL. THESE REPRESENTATIONAL DUTIES INCLUDE
MAINTAINING SOCIAL CONTACT WITH A WIDE RANGE
OF BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS,
KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN BUSINESS
COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATING IN OFFICIAL CEREMONIAL OR
PROTOCOLARY FUNCTIONS AND OFFERING TO VISITING
AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS
SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET AND TALK WITH BRAZILIAN
PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS.

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(5) ADMINISTRATIVE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD AT
THIS CONSULATE GENERAL IS UNUSUALLY HEAVY OWING TO
THE LARGE STAFF OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCY
EMPLOYEES REQUIRING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TO THE
AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -LEASED PROPERTY THAT
MUST BE ADMINISTERED, TO THE AMOUNT OF OFFICIAL
TRAVEL AND VISITATIONS THAT MUST RECEIVE LOGISTIC
SUPPORT FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL, AND TO THE
SHIPPING AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE SERVICES THAT RIO
MUST PERFORM FOR THE EMBASSY. IN THIS CONNECTION
THE TOTAL OFFICIAL U.S. REPRESENTATION IN RIO SERVED
BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL CONSISTS OF 83 U.S. CITIZEN
EMPLOYEES AND 152 LOCAL EMPLOYEES.
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OWNS TWO PROPERTIES IN
RIO, THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE BUILDING, WHICH
WAS FORMERLY THE EMBASSY CHANCERY BEFORE THE EMBASSY

MOVED TO BRASILIA, AND THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S RESIDENCE, WHICH WAS FORMERLY THE DCM RESIDENCE WHEN THE EMBASSY WAS IN RIO. IN ADDITION, WE MAINTAIN FOUR TRANSIENT APARTMENTS UNDER CONTINUING LEASES AND HAVE RESIDENT STAFF MEMBERS HOUSED IN AN ADDITIONAL 39 GOVERNMENT-LEASED QUARTERS.

TO CARRY OUT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES WE HAVE AN ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION STAFFED WITH TWO FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS (ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL SERVICE OFFICER), ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY AND 45 LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THE SECTION COMES UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OF THE CONSUL GENERAL, THOUGH PRIMARY CONTROL OF BUDGETARY MATTERS IS CENTERED IN THE EMBASSY AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL POLICY IS LARGELY ADMINISTERED BY THE EMBASSY.

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(6) INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS: OUTSIDE THE CONSULATE GENERAL PROPER IS A SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION AND CULTURAL OPERATION RELATED TO RIO'S IMPORTANCE AS A NATIONAL, CULTURAL, MEDIA AND POLITICAL CENTER. RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AREA IS A USIS OFFICE WHICH CONDUCTS A VARIETY OF INFORMATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF PERSONS, FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, BOOK TRANSLATION PROGRAM, USA INFORMATION CENTER, LIAISON WITH LEADING CULTURAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN THE AREA, ONGOING WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, ETC.

THE USIS OFFICE IS HEADED BY A BRANCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER WHO HAS A STAFF OF FIVE FSIO'S AND 48 LOCAL STAFF EMPLOYEES. ALTHOUGH THE OFFICE WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL PROPER, IT RECEIVES ITS PROGRAM GUIDANCE FROM THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER IN BRASILIA. USIS IS LOCATED MAINLY IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE BUILDING BUT ITS LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER ("USA CENTER") ARE NOW LOCATED IN SEPARATE, RENTED QUARTERS IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY. THERE ARE PLANS FOR MOVING THE CENTER INTO THE CONSULATE GENERAL BUILDING.

(7) OTHER PROGRAMS:

A. MILITARY: MILITARY PROGRAMS ARE REPRESENTED BY A MILITARY MISSION - THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE JOINT BRAZIL-U.S. MILITARY COMMISSION (JBUSMC) - AND BY TWO ASSISTANT SERVICE ATTACHES FOR ARMY AND NAVY. JBUSMC, WHICH NOW CONSISTS OF 25 MILITARY OFFICERS AND

ENLISTED MEN, SIX U.S. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, AND 20
LOCAL EMPLOYEES, HEADED BY A REAR ADMIRAL, IS BEING
PHASED OUT AS A RESULT OF A DECISION BY THE BRAZILIAN
GOVERNMENT IN 1977. IT WILL BE COMPLETELY TERMINATED
BY SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR. SUPERVISED BY THE EMBASSY
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AND SUBJECT ONLY TO LOOSE COORDINATING AUTHORITY BY
THE CONSULATE GENERAL, JBUSMC MAINTAINS AN
OFFICE IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE BUILDING AND
RECEIVES ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM THE CONSULATE
GENERAL. THE ASSISTANT SERVICE ATTACHES REPORT TO
THEIR SUPERIORS IN THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN
BRASILIA BUT WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL
ON LOCAL MATTERS.

B. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
HAS A REGIONAL OFFICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF PUBLICATIONS AND FOR CERTAIN OTHER
SPECIALIZED LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROGRAMS. THE STAFF
IS HEADED BY ONE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AMERICAN
EMPLOYEE AND HAS 14 LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THE OFFICE IS
HOUSED IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICE BUILDING.

MAJOR ISSUES: THE CONSULATE GENERAL IS, IN MY
VIEW, ADEQUATELY STAFFED AND OPERATES EFFECTIVELY IN
THE FULL RANGE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. QUALITY OF
STAFF IS HIGH AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND SUPPORTING
RESOURCES ARE EXCELLENT. I CONSIDER THAT WE RECEIVE
ADEQUATE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE, AS WELL AS THE EMBASSY, AND THAT INTER-AGENCY
WORKING RELATIONS IN RIO ARE GOOD.
DEXTER

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